Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 A-01 NSC-10

NSCE-00 USSS-00 NEA-10 /044 W

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4238

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 3393

SECTO 27

FOR EAGLEBURGER AND VEST FROM AMB MC CLOSKEY

PASS GENERAL SCOWCROFT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (HENRY A. KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS

- 1. ENROUTE TO CAIRO PRESS ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY WERE GIVEN FOLLOWING ON STRICTLY BACKGROUND BASIS: THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS IN PRESENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION (A) SOLIDIFYING THE CEASEFIRE AND (B) ACHIEVING PROGRESS ON A PERMANENT PEACE. THESE ISSUES ARE INTERRELATED AND DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE. SECRETARY WILL REVIEW ENTIRE SITUATION WITH SADAT AND WILL NOT DISCUSS SPECIFICS PUBLICLY. OUR EFFORTS WILL REQUIRE REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND SHOULD NOT BEGIN BY FLOATING PLANS. WE SEEKING GET BETTER UNDERSTANDING FROM ALL PARTIES ON ESSENTIAL ISSUES AND WHAT EACH MUST DO. US HAS NOT SUBMITTED A PLAN. WE SHOULD NOT GET INTO POSITION WHERE US CAN BE SHOT AT AS RESULT OF "HUCKSTERING" SPECIFIC FORMULAS. IS INCUMBENT ON PARTIES TO ADVANCE PLANS.
- 2. ALL THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL PROCESS. MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT PARTIES HAVE FOUGHT WITH EACH OTHER FOR 25 YEARS, AND WE SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO TAKE THEIR TEMPERATURES AT THE END OF EACH DAY. WE BELIEVE WE ARE ENGAGED IN REAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIALOGUE WITH ARAB WORLD FOR FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS AND

EQUALLY HOLDING SERIOUS TALKS WITH ISRAEL. WE SEE OUR ROLE AS ONLY BEGINNING NOW IN NEW SITUATION AND COULD PROVE TO BE CATALYST, BUT DONT WANT TO CLAIM TOO MUCH. AT END OF THIS TRIP, SECRETARY WILL WANT TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT AND THEN GAUGE WHAT US CAN REALISTICALLY DO. OBVIOUSLY CEASEFIRE HAS TO BE STABILIZED SO THAT LONGER-TERM EFFORTS MAY TAKE PLACE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS OF ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER OF RETURNING TO WAR, CORRESPONDENTS TOLD WE WOULD HAVE BETTER JUDGMENT AFTER SECRETARY MEETS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. BASED ON SECRETARYS CONVERSATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND KING HASSAN, WE BELIEVE THERE IS WILLINGNESS ON ARAB SIDE TO FACE NECESSITY OF DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENT. GOT CLEAR SENSE FROM FAHMI THAT ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY TOWARD US IS NOT BEST ONE TO HOLD. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN CAIRO BUT IT IS NOT "AGENDA ITEM."

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Message Attributes

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